

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 are pending in the present application.

The present application is claiming priority of EP 00127965.2, which was filed on 20 DEC 2000 (hereinafter "the priority document"). The Office Action includes a Continuation Sheet (PTOL-326) that states that the certified priority document is required. However, Applicants submitted a certified copy of the priority document concurrently with the submission of the application. In this regard, Applicants are submitting herewith, a copy of the following documents:

- (1) a cover sheet of priority document EP 00127965.2;
- (2) a transmittal letter that indicates the priority document was mailed on 26 JUL 2001; and
- (3) a postcard that indicates submission of the priority document, and that includes a stamp of the USPTO acknowledging receipt thereof.

Applicants respectfully request that in the next office communication, the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the priority document.

Also, on the Office Action Summary, item 10 is checked, indicating that drawings are accepted by the Examiner. Applicants wish for the Examiner to note that the present application does not include any drawings.

In the Office Action, claims 1 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,563,816 to Nodoushani et al. (hereinafter "the Nodoushani et al. patent") in view of "The Benefits of CORBA-Based Network Management" by Haggerty et al. (hereinafter "the Haggerty et al. article"). The application contains six independent claims, namely claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

Applicants amended the independent claims to clarify an aspect of the claims that is neither described nor suggested by the cited combination of references.

Claim 1 provides for a method of operating a communications network. The method includes, *inter alia*, accessing, by a client, a descriptor for an object, wherein the descriptor is represented by a struct that includes an attribute but no operation. The method also includes (a) creating, on a server, a list of required structs based on a requirement of the client, (b) sending the list from the server to the client, and (c) processing, by the client, data represented by the list.

Applicants have not found that either of the references either describe or suggest (a) creating, on a server, a list of required structs based on a requirement of the client, (b) sending the list from the server to the client, and (c) processing, by the client, data represented by the list, as recited in claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of the Nodoushani et al. patent and the Haggerty article.

Independent claims 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 each include a recital similar to that of claim 1, as described above. Thus, claims 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 are patentable over the cited combination of references for reasons similar to that of claim 1.

Claims 2 – 5 depend from claim 1, claim 10 depends from claim 6, and claim 12 depends from claim 11. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 2 – 5, 10 and 12 are also patentable over the cited combination of references.

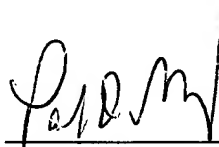
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 1 – 12.

Applicants clarified an aspect of claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 that is neither described nor suggested by the cited combination of references. Additionally, Applicants amended claims 1, 2 – 9 and 11 to do one or both of (a) use singular tense rather than plural tense,

or (b) improve form. None of the amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any term of any claim, and therefore, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Greeley, Esq.
Reg. No. 31,019
Attorney for the Applicants
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: 203-327-4500
Fax: 203-327-6401

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